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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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MINERALS PROGRAM
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Reply to: State of Utah
Division of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Quality
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

October 21, 1991

Mr. Frank Wicks
Vice President & General Manager
Barrick Mercur Gold Mines
P.O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

RE: Tailings Pond Construction

Dear Mr. Wicks:

This letter is in summary of the meeting held in your office on October 3, 1991. Messrs. Ralph Sacrison and Richard Gilli of Barrick Mercur, C.C. Patel of my staff, you and I attended the meeting. The construction for expansion of the tailings pond capacity in 1991 and future work was discussed. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

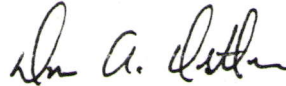
1. Barrick will line the tailings pond using a 12-inch clay layer of long trail shale and 6-inch erosion layer of Manning Canyon shale.
2. Barrick will install a 12-inch layer of bentonite rich clay on that part of the pond slope for which there is not enough long trail shale clay.
3. Barrick will conduct lab permeability (K) tests on the undisturbed samples of the long trail shale clay and bentonite enriched clay liners at the rate of 1 test per 20,000 sq. ft. of liner area. If the result of any of these tests show the K value to be higher than 1×10^{-7} cm/sec, Barrick will then implement remedial measures by installing a 6-inch thick layer of bentonite enriched clay over the previously laid 12 inch layer,
4. Barrick will perform a double ring field infiltrometer test as per ASTM Method D 5093-90 on the test pad now under construction. If the results of this testing shows that the in-place K value of the 1991 clay liner is higher than 1×10^{-7} cm/sec, then Barrick will install over this 1991 clay layer, as a remedial measure, a layer of Bentomat (a proprietary geocomposite product) from elevation 7280 feet down to within 4 feet of the water line of the pond. This work will be done starting somewhere between the last week of May through the first week of June 1992.

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5. Barrick will implement a neutralization process for the tailings cyanide.

If you have any comments on this please let us know.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:ccp:rvg

cc: Tooele County Health Department
Division of Oil Gas & Mining

FILE:Barrick Mercur